

The Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

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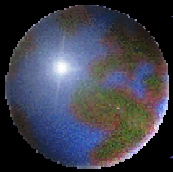
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What is the GHS?

- A common and coherent approach to defining and classifying hazards, and communicating information on labels and safety data sheets.
- Target audiences include workers, consumers, transport workers, and emergency responders.
- Underlying infrastructure for establishment of national, comprehensive chemical safety programs.



Where we are now:

- UNCED mandate (1992)
- Tripartite negotiations for over a decade completed in December 2002
- UN ECOSOC approval in July 2003



Scope of the GHS

- Harmonization of major existing systems for chemicals in transport, in the workplace, pesticides and consumer products—*without lowering the level of protection afforded by those systems*
- Classification based on intrinsic properties/hazards, not risk
- Scope covers all chemicals
- Consistent with U.S. regulatory framework



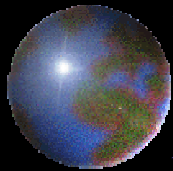
GHS Goals

- To promote safer transport, handling and use of chemicals world wide
- To facilitate international trade in chemical products by promoting greater consistency in regulatory requirements
- To reduce need for testing and evaluation
- To assist countries in developing strategies for sound management of chemicals



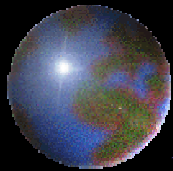
PHYSICAL HAZARDS (3)

EXPLOSIVES	FLAMMABLE GASES
FLAMMABLE AEROSOLS	OXIDIZING GASES
GASES UNDER PRESSURE	FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS
FLAMMABLE SOLIDS	SELF-REACTIVE SUBSTANCES
PYROPHORIC LIQUIDS	PYROPHORIC SOLIDS
SELF-HEATING SUBSTANCES	SUBSTANCES which, in contact with water, emit flammable gases
OXIDIZING LIQUIDS	OXIDIZING SOLIDS
ORGANIC PEROXIDES	CORROSIVE TO METALS



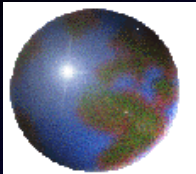
Health Effects

- ⊗ Acute toxicity/lethality (oral, dermal, inhalation)
- ⊗ Skin corrosion/irritation
- ⊗ Serious eye damage/eye irritation
- ⊗ Respiratory sensitization and skin sensitization
- ⊗ Germ cell mutagenicity



Health Effects (continued)

- Carcinogenicity
- Reproductive and developmental toxicity, lactation effects
- Specific target organ/systemic toxicity (single and repeated exposure)



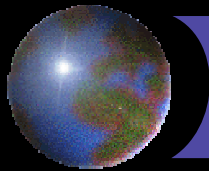
GHS SYMBOLS





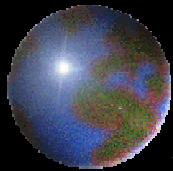
What should be harmonized

- Classification criteria for physical hazards, health hazards, and aquatic toxicity, for chemical substances and mixtures
- Certain standardized label elements: hazard pictograms, use of two signal words (danger and warning), and hazard statements for each hazard class and category
- [Product identifiers and precautionary statements]
- Format and contents for Safety Data Sheets



What does not need to change to be consistent with the GHS

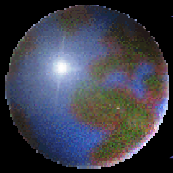
- Supplemental information
- Testing methods and data requirements
- Use of risk-based labeling for chronic effects for consumer products in the consumer use setting
- Scope of hazards covered by national systems (“building block” approach)
- Downstream effects



General Implementation

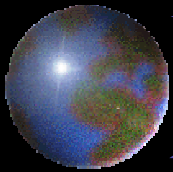
Expectations

- Voluntary international system—no binding treaty obligations on countries
- Intent is that countries with existing systems will harmonize them to be consistent with the GHS and
- Countries that do not have systems will adopt GHS as their basic system
- To extent that countries adopt GHS into their systems, binding regulatory changes for industry



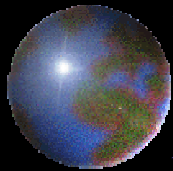
Timing

- No international implementation schedule
- IFCS, WSSD goal of 2008; APEC goal of 2006
- Different systems/sectors likely to require different time frames
- Steps to avoid disruption will need to be considered in transition from old to new labels



Next steps

- Analysis of existing policies and identification of differences between them and GHS, including “downstream effects”
- Extensive internal and external outreach to raise awareness and seek input
- Coordination with other agencies to maximize harmonization within the U.S. government
- NAFTA co-ordination will also be key
- OPP has formed internal working group co-chaired by RD and FEAD



Anticipated Benefits of Harmonization

- Countries, international organizations, chemical producers and users of chemicals all benefit.
 - Enhance protection of humans and environment.
 - Facilitate international trade in chemicals.
 - Reduce need for testing and evaluation.
 - Assist countries and international organizations to ensure the sound management of chemicals.